United Nations E/AC.51/2017/12

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2017

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-seventh session
Organizational session, 20 April 2017
Substantive session, 5-30 June 2017*
Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda**
Coordination questions: New Partnership for Africa's Development

United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of activities undertaken by the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) since June 2016. It is organized around the thematics of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of the United Nations entities working in Africa.

During the reporting period, the United Nations system continued to work towards the implementation of NEPAD, Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably in the contexts of the African Year of Human Rights with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women and the African Year of Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth. In particular, the United Nations system supported the African Union and its subregional institutions in the context of the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

* The dates for the substantive session are tentative.
** E/AC.51/2017/1.

17-04910 (E) 170417

Please recycle

The report underlines the need for United Nations entities to enhance coordination and coherence, and calls for mobilizing more resources, enhancing partnerships and improving synergies and coordination in the implementation of all development frameworks in Africa, in particular NEPAD, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report also advocates for United Nations entities to include in their activities and programmes the African Union theme for 2017: "Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth".

I. Introduction

1. At its forty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its forty-sixth session, and annually thereafter, on the support provided by the United Nations system to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (see A/60/16, para. 237). The recommendation was endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 71/6.

II. Support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

2. The present report highlights activities implemented by the United Nations system in support of NEPAD since June 2016, organized around eight realigned thematic clusters and topics corresponding to the priorities of NEPAD and in line with Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. The report covers all Regional Coordination Mechanism thematics and was prepared on the basis of inputs received from United Nations systems funds, programmes and specialized agencies and from departments of the Secretariat since June 2016. In requesting inputs, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa highlighted the recommendations of the Committee for Programme Coordination, including the importance of reporting impacts in both qualitative and quantitative terms.

A. Infrastructure development

4. During the review period, the United Nations system continued to support the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative and the Dakar Agenda for Action.

5. From July 2016 through January 2017, the World Bank committed $3.2 billion to national and regional energy, transport, and information and communications technology (ICT) projects in sub-Saharan Africa, consistent with the objectives of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. Moreover, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) supported the implementation of the Dakar Agenda for Action in 16 countries by kickstarting "Project 16-16-16", its flagship transboundary infrastructure advocacy campaign. The campaign involved the domestication of the model law on investment in transboundary infrastructure and the development of capacity in de-risking strategies to enhance and deepen project ownership and support across beneficiary countries. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat supported the campaign by hosting a media breakfast round table at United Nations Headquarters with media outlets and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency under the theme "De-risking Infrastructure Investment in Africa".

6. The United Nations Capital Development Fund's technical assistance support has taken the necessary steps to reduce the risk of financial loss in order to facilitate

a pipeline of some $70 million for private investment. As a result, in the United Republic of Tanzania in 2016, 11 projects reached the investment-ready stage and were presented to local banks, investors and other partners for capital mobilization.

7. In the energy sector, the World Bank, under the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, has been helping countries in determining investments required to meet energy access goals by 2030. Through support to transformative regional energy projects, it promoted the expanded use of renewable energy.

8. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) partnered with Burkina Faso, Chad, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia to develop national energy investment prospectuses and action agendas to facilitate private sector engagement.

9. Under the project entitled "Promoting Energy Efficiency in Buildings in East Africa", the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) assisted Rwandan building codes by developing a chapter on sustainable energy. That code was subsequently adopted by eight East African universities as a training manual. UN-Habitat also carried out training on entrepreneurial skills for more than 300 participants in Rwanda on energy efficiency and renewable energy for youth empowerment. Similar training was undertaken in Nigeria for more than 100 youths.

10. The Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, UNDP and the United Republic of Tanzania organized a regional meeting on sustainable energy for African least developed countries in Dar es Salaam in December 2016 to build multi-stakeholder partnerships and mobilize investment, including by sharing best practices.

11. In the ICT sector, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), through its project to support the harmonization of ICT policies in sub-Saharan Africa, continued to ensure coherence between African Union and NEPAD enabling policies and regulatory frameworks. To help governments harness broadband networks and service, ITU assisted South African Development Community (SADC) countries in developing their national broadband plans.

12. In the water sector, UN-Habitat, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) partnered with Global Affairs Canada to improve sustainable access to disaster-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in 265 disaster-prone communities in the upper east, upper west and northern regions of Ghana for 200,000 beneficiaries, a quarter of them schoolchildren.

13. For the second part of its Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation project, UN-Habitat entered into a finance contract worth €13.1 million with the European Investment Bank to deliver more than 300 sanitation facilities to meet the sanitation needs of about 250,000 people, including 150 schools in the slums of Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania.

14. UN-Habitat has provided technical and legal support, through a revenue enhancement project in Kenya, to design an infrastructure development fund, which is expected to alleviate Kiambu County's current and future infrastructure financing challenges. As a result, the county's revenues have grown by 60 per cent.

B. Governance

15. During the review period, United Nations entities advanced the governance and democracy agenda by supporting the African Peer Review Mechanism. The Mechanism's membership increased to 36 when Namibia acceded to the Mechanism in January 2017. ECA and UNDP assisted Chad, Djibouti, Senegal and the Sudan in drafting their external review reports, and supported Kenya in drafting its second external review report. Those countries were peer reviewed during the January 2017 session of the Forum of the Mechanism. As of January 2017, 21 countries have been peer reviewed.

16. ECA organized a regional meeting for West Africa on regional accession within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It provided technical support to Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and Liberia to launch effective self-assessment processes. In Liberia, ECA organized three events in October 2016, in close collaboration with the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism and national authorities. As a result, Liberia agreed to finalize the self-assessment exercise by the end of February 2017 and to be reviewed in July 2017 at the Mechanism's next Forum.

17. UNDP provided both technical and financial support for the development of the 2016-2020 strategic plan of the African Peer Review Mechanism. The 5-year plan was approved in August 2016 by the Mechanism's Forum. UNDP also organized a strategic technical meeting to develop a road map for the implementation of the plan and prepared a project proposal to identify funds to support its implementation.

18. The United Nations Democracy Fund funded 33 projects implemented by civil society organizations in several African countries, including a project in Kenya which empowers women and youth living in informal settlements to meaningfully participate in local governance.

19. In collaboration with the Department of Public Information, ECA, the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency, the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism and the regional economic communities, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa organized several high-level events during Africa Week in October 2016, including on strengthening partnerships for inclusive sustainable development, good governance and peace and stability in Africa, and on a renewed global partnership for entrenching good governance and the rule of law in Africa. The high-level events helped to strengthen international cooperation in support of Agenda 2063, in particular aspiration 3, which calls for "An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect of human rights, justice and the rule of law".

20. UN-Habitat continued to support the mainstreaming of the human rights-based approach to development, particularly in the context of rapid urbanization. It advocated for the participation of women and youth in urban processes, land tenure and property issues; increased accessibility for persons with disabilities; the inclusion of indigenous peoples; and the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing.

21. In Kenya, the revenue enhancement project of UN-Habitat in Kiambu County laid the foundation for municipal financial management. The county's revenues

have grown by 60 per cent since the implementation of the fully automated revenue collection system.

22. Through the implementation review mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) carried out peer reviews in Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Malawi, Mali, the Niger, Senegal, Seychelles and Swaziland on the criminalization and international cooperation chapters of the Convention. So far, 37 African countries have conducted peer reviews. In 2016, UNODC provided technical assistance to 11 countries to help them implement the recommendations made in their peer reviews and strengthen their governance frameworks.

23. UNDP supported the establishment and implementation of a rule of law and anti-corruption training facility in Senegal for public officials. It also supported various rule of law programmes in Burkina Faso, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and South Sudan.

24. The United Nations Global Compact partnered with its Foundation to launch collective action projects in Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria aimed at helping small and medium-sized enterprises to implement robust anti-corruption compliance programmes and link them with business incentives provided by multinational companies and investors.

25. In May 2016, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) delivered an electronic registration system in Benin which allows the local business registry to automate processes and make them available online. UNCTAD also assisted the Tanzania Investment Centrein installing an online registration system and incorporating an innovative investment opportunities repository, which is also being replicated in Kenya. Kenya expanded its investment portal, called eRegulations Kenya, which is a reference for trade portals in the East African Community.

26. With the view of supporting public institutions and administrations in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat invited African public servants to capacity-building workshops, conferences, study tours and other capacity development events. The Department also contributed to the formulation of a public administration programme for NEPAD and the African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration.

C. Peace and security

27. To sustain the political momentum for peacebuilding in Africa and discuss effective ways to implement the outcome of the 2015 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the African Union Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office co-organized a high-level meeting entitled "Sustaining peace: mechanisms, partnerships and the future of peacebuilding in Africa" in May 2016. The meeting outlined proposals for strengthening peacebuilding partnerships among the United Nations and the African Union, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the regional economic

communities, and called for adequate and predictable financing for peacebuilding and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

28. As a follow-up, my predecessor, with the support of the Governments of Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, held a Peacebuilding Fund pledging conference to invest in sustaining peace on 21 September 2016, on the margins of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. The Fund received $151 million in pledges from 26 Member States, covering the years 2017-2019, which will go towards projects aimed at sustaining peace and preventing violent conflict, particularly in Africa.

29. Through its regional offices, the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat continued to combat threats of terrorism and violent extremism arising from the activities of Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin. In August 2016, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) held meetings with authorities from Cameroon and Chad to promote a holistic approach to the threat posed by Boko Haram. UNOCA organized a visit by the Bureau of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa to Cameroon and Chad in November 2016 to raise awareness among member States of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) about the need to combat Boko Haram. In March 2017, the Department facilitated a visit by the Security Council to the Lake Chad Basin countries to express solidarity with the region, take stock of the situation and consult on efforts to address the humanitarian and human rights situation and the root causes underlying the Boko Haram crisis.

30. In June 2016, UNOCA and ECCAS signed a new cooperation framework agreement that outlines the principles of cooperation in the areas of preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding and provides a basis for a range of actions, including capacity-building workshops, joint situation assessment missions and joint analytical reports. In collaboration with the African Union and ECOWAS, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) was engaged in a number of preventive and good offices initiatives in Burkina Faso, the Gambia and Ghana. UNOWAS continued to facilitate the implementation of the cross-border security strategy of the Mano River Union. In October and November 2016, a UNOWAS delegation visited Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to explore ways of advancing implementation of the cross-border security strategy, including by identifying priority activities which UNOWAS and the respective United Nations country teams could help sustain after the drawdown of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Mission in Liberia.

31. In Eastern Africa, UNODC continued to counter violent extremism in prisons and provide legislative assistance to incorporate counter-terrorism provisions and training to prosecutors and judges, while focusing on human rights and the criminal justice response to terrorism in the region and supporting the development of a regional prosecutor's network on mutual legal assistance, extradition and prisoner transfer laws. UNDP fostered community resilience and inclusion, supported the creation of early warning capacities at regional and national levels and strengthened the developmental response to extremism and radicalization in Cameroon, Chad, Kenya, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria and Somalia. UNDP also operationalized national

infrastructures for peace and developed strategies on conflict prevention and reconciliation.

32. UNICEF provided critical child protection services to children and women affected by crises in South Sudan, where it deployed 19 integrated rapid response mechanism missions, reaching more than 309,000 people, including more than 58,000 children under the age of 5. UNICEF also supported the release of 845 children associated with armed forces with an inclusive reintegration package and supported survivors of gender-based violence.

33. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict worked with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-North to sign an action plan in November 2016 to end the recruitment and use of children in conflict. Similarly, in Somalia, the Office's joint efforts with the United Nations country team led to the transfer to child protection partners of 43 children who were detained for their alleged association with Al-Shabaab.

D. Agriculture, food security and rural development

34. In line with the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063 in 2015, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) worked to enhance women's contributions to and benefits from formal agriculture and agribusiness value chains. In that regard, FAO supported the development of 39 country gender assessments, providing the basis for gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme results framework and targets.

35. In support of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, World Bank lending for agriculture to sub-Saharan African countries from July 2016 to January 2017 amounted to $1.2 billion. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), through its support to the African Green Revolution Forum, helped stimulate increased public and private sector investments in African agriculture towards achieving the commitments of the Malabo Declaration and the Programme.

36. IFAD has contributed about $243,000 to the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management to implement activities in Ethiopia, Mozambique, the Niger and Uganda that focus on integrating holistic approaches to agricultural risk management into national plans and policies. National risk assessment workshops were held in Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Ethiopia, the Niger, Senegal and Uganda.

37. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), through an atoms monitoring technology, has been assisting small-scale farmers in adapting to climate change and improving crop productivity in the arid Kassala region of the Sudan. After a successful pilot project, IAEA, FAO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society scaled up the technology, which is currently used by more than 2,000 farmers in the region, half of whom are women, who are now benefiting from a combination of drip irrigation and stable isotope techniques to grow vegetables more effectively.

38. FAO, under the initiative entitled "Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025", has been supporting nutrition and food security sensitive agriculture and

gender mainstreaming, as well as the development of regional and national agricultural investment plans. As a result, and in collaboration with SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and ECOWAS, the countries of Angola, Chad, the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Togo enhanced their food security and nutrition policies and aligned their investment plans with the aspirations of the Malabo Declaration.

39. IFAD, under the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa of Japan, supported the implementation of food and nutrition security policies through a multisectoral and people-centred approach. As a result, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, the Sudan, South Sudan and Zimbabwe aligned their country strategies and investments to goals of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

40. UNCTAD, under its project to build the capacities of selected least developed countries to upgrade and diversify their fish exports, held a second workshop in October 2016 in Entebbe, Uganda, to check the accuracy of its manual on upgrading and diversifying the country's fish exports. Some 116 Ugandan exports and senior officials, as well as fishermen and -women, received training in international food safety and quality standards, export diversification and aquaculture.

41. ILO supported the NEPAD Agency in its organization of the second Africa Rural Development Forum in September 2016 under the theme "Transforming Africa's rural space through youth empowerment, job creation and skills development". The Forum endorsed a blueprint to implement rural development policies in Africa as a vehicle for advancing rural transformation across Africa and accelerating the pace towards the vision of Agenda 2063.

42. UN-Habitat partnered with IFAD to enhance knowledge and awareness of land and natural resource tenure issues, and measures for strengthening the tenure security of more than 5,800 farmers in Uganda and more than 600 farmers in Kenya.

43. The Common Fund for Commodities has been working to empower smallholder producer schemes for a sustainable cocoa/coffee economy in Cameroon in partnership with the African Cocoa & Coffee Farmers' Marketing Organization. The project aims to enhance the profitability of cocoa/coffee cooperatives in Cameroon in addition to carrying out training and capacity-building related to cost-efficient production of coffee and cocoa by smallholder farmers. The first year the Organization will empower 20 cooperatives, including 15,000 farmers, and production yields are expected to be 31,000 tons of cocoa and 20,000 tons of coffee.

E. Industry, trade and market access

44. UNIDO, ECA, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, FAO, the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, UNCTAD, UNDP and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) have partnered to implement a key priority of the President of the Economic and Social Council. That priority emphasizes the importance of innovations in infrastructure development and promoting sustainable industrialization in countries

in special situations, particularly in Africa. In March 2017, those United Nations entities organized two regional meetings at the expert and ministerial levels on industrialization and infrastructure in Dakar. The meetings advocated for innovative concepts of industrialization to provide sustainable growth in Africa.

45. ECA, UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization (WTO) supported the negotiations on the Continental Free Trade Area. While WTO extended support to the African Union office in Geneva, ECA and UNCTAD supported all three negotiation sessions and the four technical meetings led by ECA and the African Union Commission to prepare draft legal texts. As a result, a draft negotiating text was prepared for the consideration of States to enable them to consult national stakeholders and inform the work of the negotiation forum on the Continental Free Trade Area.

46. UNCTAD provided training on trade in services for senior officials in ECOWAS member States in Abuja in July 2016. A services policy review for ECOWAS has also been initiated to help support the deepening of regional integration and Continental Free Trade Area negotiations. In support of the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement between COMESA, the East African Community and SADC, UNCTAD provided technical support on services and tariffs negotiations.

47. ECA trained African officials in Dakar in November 2016 on how to formulate suitable evidence-based trade policies. WTO strengthened the capacity of African countries through 109 activities covering the whole spectrum of the WTO work programme. Up to December 2016, approximately 4,000 African participants completed various online courses through the WTO iLearn*ing*.

48. The International Trade Centre (ITC) enhanced the export competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises from Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia in selected regional agrifood value chains. To bring investments and/or know-how, ITC brokered partnerships with multinational companies such as the Parodi Group, based in Argentina, and the German electronics firm Bosch. In Zambia, that catalysed sales of $300,000 worth of honey from small and medium-sized enterprises in the Parodi Group. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the newly established packaging services centre for small and medium-sized enterprises at the Small Industries Development Organization enabled small firms to access high-quality packaging which, in turn, translated to better market positioning.

49. The Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and WTO convened a meeting on the theme of harnessing the trade potential of landlocked developing countries to implement the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Geneva in June 2016. The meeting resulted in the adoption of a declaration highlighting the need for increased focus on physical infrastructure development and on soft infrastructure, particularly trade facilitation.

50. The UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data programme organized a series of capacity-building training sessions on the customs management system for national customs administrations and revenue authorities. Those efforts assisted the

long-term sustainability of the Automated System and enhanced the capacity of 37 African countries to increase revenue collection and reduce clearing times and costs.

51. UNCTAD continued to build awareness and skills in African countries on non-tariff measures, and conducted, with the support of Finland, the One United Nations Fund for the United Republic of Tanzania and the Russian Federation, an online course on economic analysis of non-tariff measures from October to December 2016. Twenty-three participants from 18 African countries took part in the course.

52. In 2016, the Standards and Trade Development Facility continued to promote compliance with international food safety, animal and plant health standards and facilitate market access in Africa through five regional projects.

53. The International Monetary Fund approved a $12 billion arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility for Egypt to support an economic reform programme and focus on growth and development. Similarly, a 48-month programme of about $2.9 billion was approved for Tunisia in 2016 to support economic and financial reforms and generate inclusive growth and job creation, as well as governance, infrastructure and human capital development.

54. UNCTAD supported the Central African Republic, the Sudan and Togo in improving debt recording, and Gabon and the Sudan in producing debt data validation calendars. UNCTAD also assisted Angola and Côte d'Ivoire in developing their national debt statistics. In total, UNCTAD contributed to enhanced debt management capacity for 22 African countries.

F. Environment, population and urbanization

55. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, continued to work with other partners to support the implementation of the decisions of the Conference and the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD. Towards that end, the Conference convened an African regional joint preparatory meeting for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification, which served to consolidate common views and develop frameworks for discussions after the Conferences concluded.

56. UNEP and a number of United Nations entities, the NEPAD Agency and the regional economic communities jointly prepared assessment reports to identify the opportunities and challenges involved in transitioning to a green economy in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa. The assessments identified the challenges to the respective countries including financing, capacity-building and technology transfer.

57. UNCTAD continued to promote climate-friendly trade and production strategies, including in the green economy. National green economy review projects were undertaken in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Morocco and Senegal to advise the development of national green economy issues in order to promote new employment and export opportunities while preserving ecosystem development.

58. The United Nations Capital Development Fund supported the integration of climate change adaptation into local government planning and budgeting systems in 14 local governments in Benin, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique and the Niger in 2016. That allowed local governments with populations close to 1 million to access climate finance.

59. UNDP strengthened national capacities to mobilize additional and innovative forms of public and private finance for climate change in 12 African countries, including Burkina Faso, the Comoros, Eritrea, the Gambia, Madagascar, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Some of the targeted support provided to countries included: (a) access to the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and other climate funds; (b) the establishment of national mechanisms for climate financing through national climate change [illegible]; (c) technical assistance in [illegible] and aligned climate public expenditure and institutional reviews and supporting implementation in targeted countries; and (d) the development of the capacities of targeted countries to scale up renewable and green energy initiatives.

60. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and its Global [illegible] supported capacity-building in 40 African countries to help set land and degradation neutrality targets through grants and technical assistance amounting to $1.9 million. The Global Mechanism also continued supporting the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative through two projects: (a) the Front line environmental post one Union verte (FLEUVE) project, funded by the European Commission and covering Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, the Niger and Senegal, amounting to €7.75 million, and (b) the project entitled "West Africa: Promoting sustainable land management in migration-prone areas through innovative financing mechanisms", funded by Italy and implemented in Burkina Faso, the Niger and Senegal, amounting to €2 million.

61. World Bank support for the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative continued through the Sahel and West Africa Programme, reinforced by the Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication and Knowledge Service project. Lending for environment, land and water management projects from July 2016 through January 2017 was more than $900 million.

62. UN-Habitat continued to facilitate the development and mainstreaming of an African urban and human settlement agenda. It conceived the idea of and helped set up the Conference of the ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development and Secretary-Generals of the Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization of the African Union. UN-Habitat provided technical and administrative support to the Committee to facilitate its participation in the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III process) and a separate [illegible] African Common Position and a draft [illegible] Declaration on Habitat III, a Strategy, 2016–2018, draft of which was endorsed by the African Heads of State in August 2016.

63. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), UN-Habitat and the African Union Commission organized a high-level meeting on the theme "Urban agenda and the Africa we want" in March 2017 in the margins of African Development Bank 2017 "Re-thinking cultural ties: a significant tie for Urban

Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. In June 2016, ECA organized a high-level dialogue on the impact of urbanization on national development planning in Africa in Yaoundé to encourage African countries to mainstream urbanization into their development planning and strategies.

66. UN-Habitat has been advocating for the placement of housing and slum upgrading at the centre of urban decision-making by providing technical support to 27 African countries. Nine of those countries are currently implementing participatory pilot projects under the framework of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme. Some 67,500 slum households are targeted for improved housing conditions.

67. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and ECA organized two workshops, one on the production of population estimates and demographic indicators and one on population projections. The workshops, held in Addis Ababa and Dakar in March and November 2016, respectively, strengthened the capacity of African national statistical offices.

68. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continued to support national demographic dividend strategies and expanded support to address policy actions and adoption of national and subnational needs. UNFPA provided technical and financial support to model the prospects for a demographic transition and a demographic dividend in 12 countries in the Sahel region using National Transfer Accounts. At a result, many governments recognized the development potential of current demographic trajectories and the urgency of better schooling and expanded job opportunities.

G. Social and human development

69. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs continued to promote the social dimensions of HIV/AIDS and assess current system-wide processes related to social development in Africa, including by raising awareness about Agenda 2063 at the Commission for Social Development of the Economic and Social Council.

70. The World Bank provided lending and commitments for social and human development from July 2016 to January 2017 in excess of $4.3 billion, covering health, education and social protection projects.

71. [illegible] pooling together the collective strengths and distinct capacities of its United Nations agencies, comprising the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNFPA, UNICEF, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), WHO and the World Bank, supported Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe in improving the [illegible] health and well-being of every woman, newborn, child and adolescent, support of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health and the Every Woman, Every Child initiative.

72. UNFPA supported the work of about 30,000 health workers, strengthened the capacity of 13 nursing schools, improved reproductive maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and improved the availability, quality and

monitoring of integrated reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services and referral systems in sub-Saharan Africa. It also led the United Nations system's Campaign to End Fistula, and has been piloting a statistical model to generate global and country-specific estimates of fistula incidence and prevalence to help advance planning, implementation and monitoring.

71. ITU and WHO have been carrying out the Be Healthy, Be Mobile initiative in Senegal from 2014 to 2017, which takes advantage of mobile phone usage in order to respond to non-communicable diseases such as diabetes in the areas of prevention, treatment and policy enforcement, and to target specific disease risk factors. By the end of 2016, the project had registered about 53,000 subscribers. Similarly, in October 2016, ITU and WHO launched the Be Healthy, Be Mobile: Cervical Cancer initiative in Zambia through a grant agreement from WHO and AfDB. The initiative's goal will be to take advantage of the high rates of mobile phone penetration all over the world to deliver health services to populations.

72. In July 2016, the landmark Nairobi Statement on Investment in Access to Medicines was signed by the African Union, UNAIDS and UNCTAD, among others, in Nairobi, to facilitate investment in local pharmaceutical production in Africa, particularly in the manufacture of antiretroviral medicines.

73. UNICEF strengthened engagement with regional bodies such as IGAD, SADC and the Southern Africa Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee, including through the deployment of key personnel, contributing to both the cholera response plan led by IGAD and the Joint Cholera Initiative for Southern Africa. In the education area, through its Peacebuilding, Education and Advocacy Programme, UNICEF supported the Pan-African Symposium on Education, Resilience and Social Cohesion in June 2016. As a result, 14 African countries committed to ensure that their education systems offer equitable, socially inclusive and quality education that promotes social cohesion, resilience and peace. The event also contributed to preparations for the Association for the Development of Education in Africa 2017 Triennale on the theme "Revitalizing education towards the 2030 Global Agenda and Africa's Agenda 2063".

74. The UNCTAD Virtual Institute continued to help strengthen trade and development-related teaching and research at academic institutions through online courses and videoconferences in Africa. In 2016, six universities in Africa joined the Virtual Institute, making Africa the region with the highest country representation.

75. ILO and the African Union Commission organized the first Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy in Africa in Yaoundé(sic) in October and November 2016, as the first course of the African Centre for Statistics, in order to strengthen the statistical capacity of African countries.

76. The United Nations Global Compact and its local networks in Egypt, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania organized consultations on the Women's Empowerment Principles gap analysis tool in July and August 2016 to assist companies in assessing and improving their gender equality performance across the workplace, marketplace and community.

77. The United Nations Capital Development Fund, under the Making Access Possible initiative, supported national governments on financial services to

Botswana, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Togo and Zimbabwe. That contributed to supporting market integration, local economic expansion and sustainable development.

78. In South Africa, ILO organized an Academy on Labour Migration in December 2016, which provided advanced knowledge and enhanced the capacity of key migration actors to better understand labour migration challenges and opportunities in a changing political, economic and social context.

II. Science and technology

79. ITU continued to advocate for Africa's development by leveraging ICT access and facilitating the mobilization of technical, human and financial resources needed for its implementation, and working towards narrowing the digital divide by promoting the right of everyone to communicate through cost-effective access to infrastructure and ICT services.

80. ITU organized the second annual sub-Sahara Spectrum Management Conference and a workshop on digital broadcasting funding mechanisms in November 2016 in Dakar. The event, attended by 30 countries, was part of ITU support to Africa, through the African Telecommunications Union, in the migration from analogue to digital broadcasting.

81. ITU continued to establish Centres of Excellence in Africa as key vehicles to deliver ITU Academy courses for capacity-building and meet the WSIS+10 objective of combating digital illiteracy. ITU also organized capacity-building forums in 13 countries in Africa.

82. During the reporting period, WIPO worked with the WIPO Agency on a project on intellectual property and the informal economy to better understand how innovation occurs in the informal economy. As part of its capacity-building activities, WIPO also established Technology and Innovation Support Centres in Djibouti and Mauritania in May and July 2016, respectively. It also signed service level agreements for the Centres with both countries in October 2016.

83. UNCTAD conducted training sessions and workshops on intellectual property in various African countries. That included a workshop on intellectual property and technology transfer which took place in May in Benin, in collaboration with UNIDO and South Africa. UNCTAD organized a workshop in Pretoria for the review and validation of a draft consultative framework on intellectual property in South Africa.

84. In line with its support for the development of science, technology and innovation capacities, UNCTAD conducted, at the request of the Economic Ministry of Trade, Industry and East African Community Affairs, a policy review in Rwanda.

85. The Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in accordance to its follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2011-2020, facilitated the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 71/243, by which the Assembly established the Technology

Bank for the Least Developed Countries. The new United Nations conference is a significant achievement for the development of science, technology and innovation for least developed countries and will be supported by the relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the Technology Facilitation Mechanism for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

I. Communication, advocacy and outreach

86. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa continued to support the achievement of internationally agreed development goals through coordinating global advocacy in support of NEPAD, under the institutional framework of the Interdepartmental Task Force on African Affairs and through the Office website (http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/), which has been revamped and updated in French. The Office continued to coordinate the United Nations system-wide support for NEPAD, with a view to ensuring coherent and coordinated United Nations support for Africa.

87. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa partnered with African Union strategic partners to sensitize and raise the awareness of the international community and the United Nations system on the priorities of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a view to promoting their coordinated synergistic implementation. In that context, the Office, the African Union Commission and the Government of Sweden organized a high-level forum on the theme "The Africa we want in 2030, 2063 and beyond". The forum raised global awareness of the synergies between both agendas and stressed the importance of partnerships to support their implementation.

88. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and its regional economic communities, ECA, the NEPAD Agency, the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism and the Department of Public Information, organized Africa Week in October 2016, under the theme "Strengthening partnerships for inclusive sustainable development, good governance, peace and stability in Africa". The Department of Public Information provided live [illegible] and regular updates of the high-level events through its social media platforms and various media activities, including interviews and a media briefing with United Nations and African Union officials to publicize events marking Africa Week 2016. The high-level events led into and enriched the debate of the General Assembly on the development of Africa.

89. The Department of Public Information used an array of public information platforms and tools, including its Africa thematic magazine, its multilingual news platforms and its social media accounts to promote public awareness of NEPAD objectives. The Department strengthened its public awareness programmes related to Africa, focusing on development achievements and challenges and the results of the African Union's partnership with the United Nations, in particular on Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change. As a result, from [illegible] to December 2016, 89 original articles published in the print and online versions of Africa Renewal were republished in English and French more than 500 times, in nearly 120 media outlet worldwide.

90. In May 2016, the Department of Public Information supported the African Union Directorate of Information and Communications in the production and publication of a newsletter focused on women's rights and human rights, which was circulated during the African Union Summit in Rwanda in July.

91. The United Nations Democracy Fund's website published news articles focused on getting more women in parliament in Somalia, on building literacy and participation among women and youth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on promoting youth political participation in Morocco.

92. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction built momentum on disaster risk reduction awareness and advocacy through events such as the International Day for Disaster Reduction, held in October 2016, on the theme, "Live to tell: raising awareness, reducing mortality", which focused on the first target of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which pertains to reducing disaster mortality. The first World Tsunami Awareness Day focused on effective education and disaster drills. The Office also partnered with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and highlighted the role played by radios in disseminating disaster risk reduction knowledge and early warning messages.

III. Policy issues in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

A. Strengthening of the cluster system and enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

93. During the reporting period, the United Nations system realigned its cluster system in line with NEPAD, Agenda 2063 and the Africa-specific approach to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In April 2016, the seventeenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism-Africa decided that issues of peace, security, governance and human rights would be addressed through reporting at its annual forum, and not within the cluster system. Considering the convergence between Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the session stressed the need for joint implementation and monitoring by the United Nations system, the African Union, the regional economic communities and other institutions working in and on Africa.

94. Regarding cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, the General Assembly adopted resolution 71/254 of 23 December 2016, entitled "Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2063: 2017-2027". The framework is anchored on and aligned to the aspirations and goals of Agenda 2063, and supports the decisions and declarations made during the twenty-seventh African Union Summit held in Kigali in July 2016.

B. Support to the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

95. The United Nations system continued to support the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of NEPAD.

96. During Africa Week 2016, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, together with the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency and the Department of Public Information, organized several high-level events on ways to strengthen partnerships to galvanize international support for Africa's transformational agenda. The events focused on leveraging partnerships for the effective implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa. Consequently, Africa's traditional and new and emerging development partners, including Brazil, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Turkey, the United States of America, the Arab League and the European Union, committed to strengthening North-South, South-South and triangular partnerships in support of the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

97. The World Bank's combined International Development Association and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development delivery to sub-Saharan Africa was $9.4 billion for fiscal year 2016, while $3.4 billion of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development assistance was provided to North Africa. The International Finance Corporation committed $3.2 billion in new long-term financing and mobilizations in sub-Saharan Africa, advised governments and private investors in projects worth $63 million in 37 countries and committed $370 million to North African countries. The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency provided guarantees of $1.8 billion to countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Anticipated lending to sub-Saharan Africa in fiscal year 2017 is $9.3 billion through the International Development Association and $1.4 billion through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In 2016, UNDP support to the African Peer Review Mechanism was about $134,000. UNDP also provided $2.0 million to the African Union to support women's economic empowerment and development initiatives in Africa.

98. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa leveraged the United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development to translate commitments into concrete action through mutual accountability between African countries and their development partners. The biennial report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of the commitments made towards Africa's development (A/71/203), issued in July 2016, monitored 13 commitments in the areas of trade, infrastructure development, gender and women's empowerment and a conflict-free Africa. The report identified gaps and challenges in the implementation of commitments and called for strengthening support through partnerships and mutual accountability between African Member States and their development partners.

99. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its support to the Development Cooperation Forum, contributed to the development of a working definition of development cooperation that goes beyond the transfer of resources to include non-financial measures and actions, and emphasizes that the allocation of

official development assistance and climate change-related development cooperation must be more sensitive to the needs of the most vulnerable countries.

C. Cross-cutting issues

100. Through the 16 established Empretec programme centres in Africa, UNCTAD trained several African women entrepreneurs who were recognized during the Empretec Women in Business Awards ceremony held in Nairobi in July 2016.

101. In July 2016, at the fourteenth session of UNCTAD in Nairobi, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and UNCTAD organized a high-level panel discussion on promoting tourism as an engine of inclusive growth and sustainable development in Africa. The panel stressed the role of tourism for sustainable development in Africa and identified recommendations to promote tourism in Africa. In the context of its Sustainable Tourism-Eliminating Poverty initiative, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) launched eco-tourism initiatives and enhanced market access, vocational training and small and medium-sized enterprise development projects in Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Most of those projects included components to enhance the participation of women and youth.

102. UNCTAD also developed a teaching package on trade and gender. A total of 131 participants from 21 African countries received scholarships to participate in the third iteration of that online course in January and February 2017. The distance learning initiative aims to equip academics, government officials and civil society in developing countries and economies in transition with analytical tools to analyse the two-way relationship between trade and gender, and to produce policy recommendations that take gender into account. UNCTAD and UN-Women developed an abridged version of the course for a less specialized audience. Launched in October 2016, the four-hour online course, "Trade and gender equality", is the latest addition to the UN-Women "I know gender" course.

103. UN-Habitat has made significant progress in promoting pro-poor and pro-gender responsive land administration. In 2016, it trained around 600 participants on innovative land administration approaches, including in conflict and post-conflict settings and in the management of land and natural resources and tenure security, using various Global Land Tool Network tools and geospatial technologies.

104. The Enhanced Integrated Framework provided tailored support to 38 African countries through a unique approach that guarantees full ownership, including the co-financing of Framework projects by host developed countries. In its first phase, the Framework provided support to 102 projects, with a total allocation of $200.98 million. Although they are on a very limited scale, the projects have helped to create the kinds of jobs that lift people, particularly women and youth, out of poverty.

105. In June 2016 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa organized a high-level meeting entitled "Women and youth entrepreneurship in Africa: the impact of entrepreneurial education on development". The event identified ways to support and sustain women and youth entrepreneurship in Africa. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the

Office organized a break-out session on Africa during the 2017 Economic and Social Council Youth Forum to emphasize the role of African youths in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063.

106. UNICEF continued to implement an effective programme on ending violence against children, with significant progress in Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, as well as in Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. Additional investments were made in programmes to reduce incidences of child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting. Ethiopia, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia have conducted assessments and studies on the drivers of child marriage to inform programming.

107. In line with the theme "Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth", adopted by the African Union Summit for 2017, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction promoted the engagement of youth in disaster risk reduction. As a result, the Office created an African disaster risk reduction youth group, ensured that a youth representative become a regular member of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and advocated for youth leadership as a guiding principle in its programme of action.

D. Institutional support

108. IOM has been supporting the African Union Commission and NEPAD in the establishment of an African centre for best practices, capacity development and South-South cooperation as a global platform to showcase "African homegrown development solutions" and best practices in Angola, Chad, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, the Niger and Rwanda.

109. The World Bank has been managing the multi-donor TerrAfrica Leveraging Fund, which has $2.0 million dedicated until the end of March 2018 for strengthening the capacity of the NEPAD Agency in the fields of advocacy, mutual learning and resource mobilization.

110. ECA provided technical support to African countries to align national plans with Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNDP continued to collaborate with the African Union in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 through two regional workshops organized in Johannesburg, South Africa, and Dakar in June 2016, which brought 51 African countries together to strategize on the implementation of both Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda at the country level.

111. The NEPAD Agency and UNWTO signed a memorandum of understanding in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in April 2016, to promote tourism as a tool for development in Africa within the context of the vision of NEPAD and the aspirations and goals of Agenda 2063.

E. Challenges and constraints

112. Resource constraints, weak inter-cluster collaboration and communication and the lack of a effective monitoring and evaluation framework remain major

challenges to the full implementation of the business plans of the clusters and capacity-building support. Ongoing efforts should seek to allocate specific budget lines for the activities of the respective clusters and all efforts should be made to ensure inter-cluster collaboration and communication.

113. The operationalization of the realigned cluster system will require enhanced coordination in order to support the joint implementation and monitoring of NEPAD, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

114. This is my first report as Secretary-General on United Nations system support to NEPAD. The United Nations system has profound solidarity with and respect for the aspirations of the African Union, as articulated in Agenda 2063, and is a proud partner in support of the implementation of its priorities, together with the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

115. The United Nations system has continued to provide substantial support to the priority areas of the African Union and NEPAD at both the global and regional levels, through funding programmes and projects on capacity- and institution-building, by providing policy advisory services and by supporting resource mobilization efforts through global advocacy.

116. During the seventeenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism-Africa, clusters were realigned according to the priorities of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The United Nations systems' increased partnership with the African Union Commission should therefore look into ways to effectively operationalize those clusters and realign their programmes and activities according to the priorities laid out in the United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017-2027. As a priority, the United Nations system should support the African Union and its member States in domesticating and mainstreaming both Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda at the regional, national and local levels.

117. The United Nations system should also leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships to support the effective implementation of both regional and global agendas, particularly through United Nations country teams, which are currently being mobilized to effectively match up shared global strategies with the vision of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

118. The United Nations system should support the implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2014-2023) at the strategic and operational levels through harmonization with subregional and regional architectures in Africa, including through the eight regional economic communities, the NEPAD Agency, the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism, the African Peace and Security Architecture, the African Governance Architecture and the Panel of the Wise.

119. The United Nations system should enhance its strategic partnership for the promotion of good governance, peace, security and stability, the rule of law and respect for human rights in Africa, notably by supporting the African Peer Review Mechanism, the African Union master road map on practical steps to silence the

guns in Africa by the year 2020, the African Union's principle on unconstitutional changes of government and the African Union's goal to eliminate all types of trafficking of persons, including migrants.

120. The United Nations system should enhance its support in order to strengthen national institutions so that they are able to maintain the rule of law, ensure accountability, promote good governance, facilitate the peaceful transition of power and prevent violent extremism. The United Nations system should work to step up efforts to provide more systematic counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to help address the broader challenge of preventing violent extremism.

121. The United Nations system should also support the development and implementation of domestic resource mobilization strategies to promote the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and support efforts through the Security Council for predictable, reliable and sustainable financing for African Union peace operations.

122. In support of the African Union theme of 2017, "Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth", the United Nations system should strengthen its coordination and enhance its support for the implementation of all commitments relating to youth, particularly by investing in education, training and decent work, and by engaging young people in shaping their own future.

123. The United Nations system should support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Africa, adopted in October 2016 at the Habitat III Conference, within its overall implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

124. The United Nations system should continue to support regional integration, the fast-tracking of the Continental Free Trade Area, the implementation of the trade facilitation agreement and projects under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, with particular attention to renewable energy and transport networks.

125. In order to encourage diversification, value addition and the integration of the global value chain within the framework of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, the United Nations system should continue to enhance its support for the development of productive capacity in Africa, notably by developing a commodity strategy, in line with the recently declared Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025).

126. The United Nations system should strengthen its support towards addressing climate change in Africa, in particular through the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and by prioritizing adaptation and mitigation through the Africa Adaptation Initiative. The United Nations system should also support the development of skills, technology advancement, including outer space technology, and the provision of financial and technical resources for climate research.

127. With a view to ensuring environmental sustainability, nutrition and food security, the United Nations system should enhance its support for the implementation of all the pillars of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, in particular in the areas of food security, rural development, agribusiness and climate-smart agriculture.